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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 00078 112305Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-05 /040 W
----------122424 112308Z /75
P 112034Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4416

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR, BB, US
SUBJECT: U.S. NAVAL FACILITY BARBADOS - REACTION TO PRESS RELEASE

REF: STATE 005833

1. AS AUTHORIZED BY DEPARTMENT THIS EMBASSY JOINED THE GOB IN ISSUING A SIMULTANEOUS PRESS RELEASE ON JANUARY 10 ANNOUNCING THE EXTENSION OF THE NAVAL FACILITY AGREEMENT FOR ONE YEAR. THERE WAS NO PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE AFTER FOREIGN MINISTER FORDE'S ANNOUNCEMENT. MINISTER ADVISES ME HE EXPECTS NONE UNLESS MINISTRY'S BUDGET HEARINGS GIVE OPENING TO OPPOSITION. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, FREDERICK SMITH PUBLICLY DE-SCRIBED FORDE'S STATEMENT AS BEING "EMPTY." SMITH TWITTED FORDE FOR NOT ANNOUNCING HOW MUCH MONEY BARBADOS WOULD RECEIVE FROM U.S. FOR USE OF FACILITY. FORDE IS ACRIMONIOUS IN HIS CRITICISM OF THE FORMER DLP ADMINISTRATION FOR NOT COLLECTING RENT FOR THE FACILITY. OPPOSITION MAY WELL SEIZE UPON THE GOVERNMENT'S DIFFICULTIES OVER THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS AS A POINT OF ATTACK.

2. THE JANUARY 11 PRESS COMMENTS EDITORIALLY. THE ADVOCATE NEWS STATES THAT EXTENDING AGREEMENT "IS AN EXERCISE IN PRAGMATISM POINTING TO RATIONAL AND OBJECTIVE VIEW OF THE CASE. IT IS A DECISION THAT WILL PROVE UNPOPULAR IN THOSE CIRCLES
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WHICH ADVOCATE REVOCATION OF THE AGREEMENT AND DEMANDING COMPENSATION FROM THE U.S....." THE EDITORIAL CONTINUES ". . . THE GOVERNMENT DESERVES TO BE COMMENDED FOR NOT BEING PRESSURED INTO PERCIPITATE ACTION BY HOTHEADS WITH UNREALISTIC AND MISINFORMED PROPAGANDA."

3. THE BI-WEEKLY NATION ON JANUARY 11 EDITORIALLY COMMENTS:

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"WE REGRET THAT THE PARTIES WHO HAVE BEEN MEETING SINCE MAY LAST YEAR HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO SATISFACTORILY RESOLVE THE TERMS OF A NEW AGREEMENT. WE . . . .TRUST, IN THE WORDS OF THE MINISTER THAT 'THE INTEREST OF BARBADOS WILL AT ALL TIMES BE FULLY PURSUED IN ALL DISCUSSIONS AND NO EFFORT WILL BE SPARED TO OBTAIN THE BEST TERMS OF SETTLEMENT FOR THIS COUNTRY."

4. BARBADIAN PUBLIC GENERALLY APPEARS TO HAVE TAKEN ANNOUNCEMENT WITH EQUANIMITY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS RELEASES, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRIDGE00078
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780017-0127
Format: TEL
From: BRIDGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780177/aaaacnga.tel
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Litigation History:
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Reference: 78 STATE 5833
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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